

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 SS-20 NSC-10 ACDA-19 MC-02 AEC-11

OMB-01 DRC-01 /145 W

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P 071830Z NOV 73

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2561

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 5370

E.O. 11652: GDS 12/31/79

TAGS: MCAP, NATO, NL

SUBJ: NATO SPECIALIZATION STUDY: STEERING GROUP MEETING NOV 8

REF: A. USNATO 4177

B. USNATO 5299

C. USNATO 5326

D. STATE 219119

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HILL FROM AMBASSADOR RUMSFELD

1. THE US RESERVATION IN SUB-GROUP AND STEERING GROUP MEETINGS ON QUESTION OF DUTCH PROCUREMENT OF LANCE HAS LEFT SEVERAL ALLIES WITH IMPRESSION THAT THE US GOVERNMENT BELIEVES NETHERLANDS CAN GET ALONG JUST AS WELL WITHOUT THIS CAPABILITY. BELGIUM IN PARTICULAR IS NOW SHOWING SIGNS OF RECONSIDERING THEIR DECISION TO PROCURE LANCE. MISSION FIRST LEARNED OF THIS THROUGH REPORTS OF LAND FORCES SUB-GROUP MEETINGS. LAST FRIDAY WE HEARD IT FROM AMBASSADOR DE STAERCKE (BELGIUM).

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2. I AM CONCERNED THAT IF WE CONTINUE TO RESERVE ON THIS QUESTION AT TOMORROW'S STEERING GROUP MEETING (NOVEMBER 8), ALLIES WILL CONCLUDE THAT THE US DOES NOT SERIOUSLY BELIEVE THAT NATO NEEDS LANCE. FROM THIS VANTAGE POINT, IT SEEMS TO BE IN THE BEST

INTERESTS OF THE US GOVERNMENT TO TAKE A POSITON FAVORING NETHERLANDS PROVISION OF LANCE. SINCE VREDELING HAS ALREADY DECIDED AGAINST PURCHASE, I BELIEVE WE SHOULD SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL THAT THE NETHERLANDS NEGOTIATE AN ARRANGEMENT UNDER WHICH SOME OTHER COUNTRY WOULD PROVIDE LANCE FOR THE NETHERLANDS' CORPS IN EXCHANGE FOR SOME COMPENSATING ACTION BY THE NETHERLANDS.

3. PLEASE ADVISE IF USNATO MAY LIFT U.S. RESERVATION AT TOMORROW'S STEERING GROUP MEETING AND GO ALONG WITH WHAT WE EXPECT WILL BE FAVORABLE ALLIED CONSENSUS. IF THERE ARE POLICY FACTORS AGAINST THIS APPROACH, PLEASE ADVISE. RUMSFELD

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